

## **MINUTES**

### **BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, July 11, 2006 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE McCLOSKEY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 401 N. MORTON, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA**

#### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Bob Bent, Susan Brackney, Keith Clay, Christine Glaser, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Cairril Mills, Dave Rollo, Catherine Stafford, Toby Strout, John West

Regrets: Darryl Neher

Staff Present: Danise Alano, Asst. Director of Economic Development  
Mike Steinhoff, Intern, Office of the Mayor – BCOS

#### **Call to Order/Approval of Minutes**

6:05 Meeting called to order by John Hamilton. June 13<sup>th</sup> minutes amended to include the word “periodic” with regard to the indicators review process as proposed by John West under New Business. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by John Hamilton, seconded by Catherine Stafford, and the June 13th minutes approved unanimously.

#### **Announcements**

Dave Rollo has drafted City Council Resolution 06-07, titled “Recognizing the Peak of World Petroleum Production.” The resolution calls on Bloomington City Council to recognize the phenomena of Peak Oil and the need to prepare for its consequences, including support for a global depletion protocol.

Toby Strout announces that Middle Way House is the recipient of two grants that will support a new affordable housing project located at 318 S. Washington St. The project will also include elements of Permaculture in its design and will be exploring LEED certification.

Cairril Mills gave the Sustainability 101 presentation to the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commissioners were interested in the upcoming BCOS indicators report. They are interested in learning more about how to make the connection between global and local issues of sustainability and suggested the idea of having a “Sustainability Fair” where all the various commissions could get together and showcase how each of their work makes Bloomington more sustainable. They also expressed the need for common local will to accomplish the goals of sustainability as illustrated by the waning movement for affordable housing in Bloomington.

Dave Rollo informed the Commission that the Indianapolis Water Department with IDNR has drafted a resolution calling for a pipeline to be built to Lake Monroe. John West clarified that the pipeline is proposed as part of a 50-year plan, in case of a drought. Keith Clay noted that the expected life span of Lake Monroe is only 40-50 years due to expected siltation.

John Hamilton noted good cooperation from WFIU for use of the “Speak Your Mind” segment to publicize the Call for Ideas Drive. He also noted that WFIU welcomes more participation from the community for that segment.

A new list of energy grants has been announced by the State of Indiana, some of which may be of interest to BCOS. Details of the grants, which are available for alternative energy, alternative fuels, building efficiency, and education, can be found at <http://www.in.gov/energy/programs/current.html>.

### **Public Comment**

Mylo Rose offered to do more public service announcements on behalf of BCOS on CATS.

Paul Schneller inquired about the availability of a synopsis of the presentation given by Dr. Lawrence Franks on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Other members of the public responded that the presentation was possibly taped by both CATS and WFH and that Buff Brown of Bloomington Transportation Options for People (BTOP) may have materials available. Mr. Schneller urged Commissioners to talk about the indicators report from his class with City of Bloomington department heads and encourage its use.

### **Guest: Tom Micuda, Planning Director**

Before introducing Tom Micuda, Danise Alano provided a brief synopsis of the presentation of the July guest speaker, Linda Williamson, Executive Director of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation. Danise reported that a good dialog was started during her visit and that the BEDC will seek assistance from BCOS in developing their “Benchmarking the Local Economy” survey. A collaboration with the BEDC on a future BCOS forum focused on the issues of the local economy may be possible.

#### **Tom Micuda**

Director Tom Micuda noted that it good to see the vibrancy of exchange among the members of the young BCOS, and that it was as an indication of good things to come as the Commission matures.

Mr. Micuda discussed the overall role and goals of the Planning Department, and talked about how the Department approaches sustainability issues. While other departments may integrate sustainability into the programs they implement, the Planning Department primarily integrates sustainability concepts through the creation and enforcement of *policy*, and specifically policies related to development in the city.

Mr. Micuda reported that encouraging trends in sustainability are underway in the fields of planning and zoning; and much has evolved even from as recently as the mid-1990s. For example, in terms of alternative transportation options, developers are becoming less averse to the idea of “taking” land for a bike trails, and are now seeing multi-use trails as a nearby amenity that increases the value of their development project. Mixed development, both in terms of use and incomes, are becoming more frequent. Brownfield redevelopment is

becoming a more attractive option as space within the incorporated area of Bloomington becomes scarce. Appropriate “set asides” are becoming more common for both environmentally sensitive areas and for common spaces. These areas are important in creating more common space while not increasing the number of parks that would need to be maintained by the City. Stormwater considerations always used to be about quantity, now there is more of a focus on quality too. Most recently interest in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building rating system has grown considerably.

Mr. Micuda noted that revisions to the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) is an opportunity to codify these recent trends and make them the rule rather than the exception.

Mr. Micuda summarized some of the goals of the UDO:

There are already provisions for increasing alternative transportation by making more human-oriented streets that do not lead to an increase in the “driver’s mentality.” More environmental protections are being proposed to increase the preservation of natural environmental systems. However, this preservation has to be balanced with property rights. Provisions for affordable housing are being proposed as well as reduced parking area requirements. The goal is to facilitate more new urbanist and sustainable development by not requiring more administrative hoops or approvals (variance requests). Mr. Micuda noted that the department is currently struggling with whether LEED guidelines should be incorporated in the UDO via incentives or mandates. He welcomed input from the BCOS on that issue.

### **Committee Reports**

1. **Indicators:** The Indicators Committee did talk to an undergraduate statistics class to assist with research.
2. **Education:** The Education Committee is teaming up with members of the Environmental Commission’s Education Committee to put on two public forums in Council Chambers on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of September. The first will be on the topic of energy efficiency with presenters from Energy Pros of Harrison County and the South Central Community Action Program. The second forum will be on renewable energy that is usable here, such as solar and geothermal. There will be a meeting on the first forum on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Previously planned forums on the topics of healthcare and local food have been tabled at this time.
3. **Initiatives:** There have been about 30 proposals received to date, with a **final** deadline set for July 24<sup>th</sup>. Submissions will be reviewed on August 4<sup>th</sup> by the Committee. Submissions from commissioners are welcome with recusal where appropriate.

### **New Business**

Partnerships and Resources Committee will need members to formalize and intentionalize the BCOS’s outreach efforts.

**Staff Report**

Staff is planning on keeping a record of all of the events that BCOS has sponsored. Commissioners are encouraged to inform the rest of the Commission if they are speaking with other groups about or on behalf of the Commission on Sustainability.